

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Knightstown Academy

AND/OR COMMON

Knightstown Upper Elementary School

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Cary Street

CITY, TOWN

Knightstown

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Indiana

CODE
018

COUNTY

Henry

CODE

065

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☒ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Charles A. Beard Memorial School Corporation

STREET & NUMBER

19 South Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Knightstown

VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Henry County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

New Castle

STATE

Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Indiana Historic Preservation Program and Survey

DATE

1972- 1974

☐ FEDERAL☒ STATE☐ COUNTY☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Knightstown Academy has changed little in appearance since its erection almost a hundred years ago. It is a three-story French Second Empire style, red-brick structure built with classic symmetry. The slate covered mansard roof features ornamental dormer windows and twin turrets on which are mounted a globe and a telescope. The decorative casings surrounding the turret windows and the globe and the telescope are metal. The rounded windows are capped with arched lintels.

Started in the Centennial year 1876, the building was completed and the first class was graduated in 1877. It has been used continuously as a school since then.

The original building contains four large rooms and a commodious hall on the first and second floors and three large rooms on the third floor. On each side of the front door are companion stairways which are largely self-supporting and rise to the third floor. The full basement has walls three feet in thickness. The third floor has not been used for classes since 1887 at which time a two-story wing, also brick, was added to the rear of the building. The exterior of this wing is identical to and in complete harmony with the original structure. The interior contains two large and two small rooms on each floor. In 1931 another brick wing was added to the west of the rear addition. This wing was built in a style typical of school buildings of the 1930's.

Until recently, the building has been well maintained; however there is a need for exterior painting, roof repair, and wiring. Also, several broken window panes have been replaced with plywood.

The structure faces south and is in the center of a city block, just three blocks north of U.S. 40 (National Road). Its grounds are shaded and well-kept. An iron fence encloses two sides of the school yard. Diagonal walks lead to the center doorway from the two corners of the block. The stiles at the end of each walk are still in place - just as they were when placed there to keep the local livestock out of the school yard.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1876, 1887, 1931

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Irwin Morrison

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Knightstown Academy is an excellent example of the Second Empire style applied to a school building. The twin towers with their globe and telescope have made the building a familar landmark along the Old National Road (U.S. 40).

John Irwin Morrison, president of the School Board at the time the school was built supervised the planning and construction of the building. Coming to Knightstown after a distinguished career in education and politics, he was well prepared to influence decisions. He made the Washington County Academy at Salem, Indiana one of the early coeducational institutions in the Midwest. In addition he served in the Indiana House, as State Treasurer, and on the faculty and Board of Trustees of Indiana University. His daughter was the first woman admitted to Indiana University. It was at his instigation that the symbolic globe and telescope were incorporated into the school design.

Charles A. Beard, the noted American Historian graduated from the Academy in 1891. He went on to become a controversial figure in the interpretation of American history by using the economic interests of men to analyze their political activities. He is still remembered in Knightstown and the Academy in the best building associated with his life there.

The close association of this building with John I. Morrison and Charles A. Beard confined with its architectural importance make this a key structure in Knightstown's past.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See attached continuation sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 626300 4406380
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. R. Thomas Mayhill
ORGANIZATION

July 22, 1975
DATE

STREET & NUMBER

305 North Adams Street
CITY OR TOWN

TELEPHONE

STATE

Knightstown

Indiana

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE

Major Bibliographical References

Newspaper articles from New Castle Mercury (New Castle, Indiana), 11/16/1876 and 9/27/1877.

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Interstate Publishing Co., History of Henry County, Indiana, 1884, p. 428-9.

Rogers, L.E., Schools of Knightstown, Indiana, 1938.

Obituary of John Morrison, Indianapolis News, July 18, 1882.

Esarey, Logan, History of Indiana, 1918, p. 456.

Indianapolis Star Magazine, April 2, 1950, "Founding Father".

Knightstown Banner, June 28, 1962, "John Morrison, Educator, Played Important Role at Knightstown", by L.E. Rogers